

# *Fred Helzerman, Eighty Tomorrow Recalls Ox-team, Logging Days*

Fred Helzerman, Augusta Township, will be 80 years old Saturday and special celebration of his birthday will include a day-at-home for the eight children now living; one son died in 1913. Friends are going to shower Mr. Helzerman with postcards and greetings.

Mr. and Mrs. Helzerman, who celebrated their golden wedding anniversary Nov. 21, 1924, have lived on the farm, they now occupy, all their married life although the present house is not at the same location as the first one. They still supervise working of the 120-acre farm and enjoy unusually good health for their advanced years.

Fred Helzerman was born in Laaspae, Germany, Dec. 29, 1848, and with his family came to the United States where they landed in New York Sept. 23, 1866 after a voyage of 54 days. The family came immediately to Ypsilanti and for three years had an old-time shoe-making and repair shop (for the elder Helzerman's trade was making shoes) here, where the Ypsilanti Savings Bank now stands.

In March 1869 the family bought 80 acres of wooded land in Aug-

usta Township and for many years that was the main source of revenue—cutting wood to clear the land and bringing it to market in Ypsilanti. When a load was to be brought to the village, a start would be made very early in the morning—perhaps at 1 o'clock—and the men could not reach home again with the ox-teams until about 9 in the evening. The 80 acres of the original farm are part of the present 120 acres owned by the Helzermans.

Mrs. Helzerman whose name before marriage was Miss Louisa Oelka, was also born in Germany but first met Mr. Helzerman in Ypsilanti where they were married Nov. 21, 1874. Mr. Helzerman has held various township offices for more than 30 years.

Children of Mr. and Mrs. Helzerman who are expected at the farm home Saturday are Robert Helzerman, London Township; Mrs. William Witcomb, Milan; Fred Jr., Charles and Arthur Helzerman, all of Willis; Mrs. Arthur Northrup, Ypsilanti; Mrs. Claud Prince, Sumpter Township, and Albert Helzerman, Detroit.